

The Library Assistant:

The Official Organ of the Library Assistants' Association.

No. 5.

MAY, 1898.

Published Monthly
Annual Subscription.
2s. 6d. Post Free.

THE LIBRARY ASSISTANTS' ASSOCIATION.

FOUNDED 1895. THIRD SESSION. YEAR 1897-8.

Members are requested to carefully read the announcements appearing on this page, as no further intimation of meetings and other arrangements will be sent out.

MAY MEETING.

A meeting will be held at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, May 4th, at Poplar Central Library, High Street, Poplar, E., Mr. R. Newman, Chairman of the Poplar Library Committee, in the chair; when the Librarian, Mr. Harry Rowlatt, will read a paper on "Library Accounts." Members who are desirous of attending this meeting may obtain, on application to the Editor, examples of the method of book-keeping used, in the shape of some model accounts, which have been prepared in illustration of the address by Mr. Rowlatt.

Trains direct to Poplar from Broad Street, or to West India Dock from Fenchurch Street, or 'bus and tram to Woodstock Road from Aldgate (M. & D. Rys.)

At this meeting two Auditors will be elected to audit the accounts of the Association.

JUNE MEETING.

A meeting will be held at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, June 8th, when Mr. H. R. Tedder, Librarian of the Athenæum and President of the Library Association, will read a paper on "Young Librarians and Self-improvement."

APRIL MEETING.

A meeting was held at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, April 6th, at 20, Hanover Square, Mr. A. H. Carter in the chair, when Mr. J. Potter Briscoe, F.R.H.S., Librarian of Nottingham, Vice-President of the Library Association, and Hon. Sec. of the North Midland L.A., read a paper, entitled "A Well-equipped Library." In the lengthy discussion which followed, Messrs. Peddie, Dyer, Ogle, Bursill, Hogg, McDouall, Soper, Roberts, Pickard, and the Chairman took part. The chief points raised were the printing of reference catalogues and the issue of class

lists, the admission of denominational periodicals to the news room, and the necessity or otherwise of providing special rooms for ladies. The meeting favoured the admission of all periodicals, of whatever religion or sect, if presented, provided that their contents were not of an immoral nature, but it was thought that, with one or two exceptions, it was unnecessary to purchase them. Sets of the class lists, bulletins, &c., issued by the Nottingham Library, as well as some pamphlets published by Mr. Briscoe, were distributed at the close of the discussion. The meeting terminated with a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Briscoe, who, in replying, dealt with every point raised in the discussion.

SUPERANNUATION.—The L.A.O. Superannuation Bill, 1898, was down for second reading on the 5th, and again on the 18th April, but on neither occasion was it reached.

THE LIBRARY.—The Librarian reports the receipt of the following donations:—From Mr. J. Potter Briscoe, F.R.H.S., Librarian of Nottingham, “*Chaucer to Wordsworth*” (T. Arnold), “*Lectures on Russian Literature*,” (Panin), “*Philobiblion of Richard de Bury*” (Thomas), “*Guide to the Choice of Books*” (Acland). From Mr. Frederick Rogers, President of the Vellum-Binders’ Trade Society, “*The Art of Bookbinding; a lecture delivered at South Place Institute*,” 1894.

NEW MEMBERS.—The following were elected at the last meeting of the Committee:—Mr. W. T. Montgomery (Bootle), Mr. F. Seward (Bromley), Mr. H. E. Bennett (Chester), Mr. H. G. Sureties (Croydon), and Mr. F. Scoon (Oldham).

F.M.R.

SUMMER PROGRAMME, 1898.

The arrangements for the summer programme of visits to places of interest have been referred to a small sub-committee. It will be remembered that visits were paid last year to Croydon, Brighton, and Kingston, and were much enjoyed by those participating. The first visit, that to Croydon, on the 30th June, will not be easily forgotten by our members. Under the guidance of the Chief Librarian, Mr. Johnston, the party was shown over the library, and the methods employed, including the “open access” lending library, were demonstrated and explained. Visits were also made to other places of interest in Croydon, winding up with tea provided by our conductor.

The visit to Brighton Public Library in July, although not so well attended as the previous one, was nevertheless very pleasant and instructive. With Mr. Madden to do the honours, the special features of the library were displayed, and came in for warm admiration. Visits were also paid to the Pavilion and Art Gallery. Had time allowed, other visits which had been arranged for by Mr. Madden might have been carried out.

The Kingston visit in September, upon the invitation of the librarian, Mr. B. Carter, was combined with a peep at the

beauties of Hampton Court Palace. The excellent work accomplished in the Library was carefully explained by the librarian, and at the conclusion of a well-spent afternoon, tea was taken with Mr. and Mrs. Carter.

The success attending these visits gives reason for pleasurable anticipation when this year's programme is decided upon. Among other places, have been suggested Windsor, Hatfield, Stratford-on-Avon, and Portsmouth, all of which are within the range of a half-holiday, and can be reached by cheap excursions. Suggestions will be welcomed and carefully considered by the Sub-Committee.

These visits, giving as they do opportunities of social intercourse among our members at a period when our ordinary meetings are not held, and combining at the same time instruction with enjoyment, should this year be more successful than ever.

A.H.C.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

An amusing side-issue was raised in the discussion at the April meeting. Is it desirable to have a separate "*Ladies' Room*"—a place set apart for the members of a sex, who, in addition, have the run of the whole building? The general consensus of opinion was that in these days when women are entering into every field of man's labour, the old regulation which consigned them to a special room in a library was out of date, and now only caused inconvenience to men. As an instance, was quoted the case of a library which each week purchased one copy of the "*Queen*," placed, of course, in the Ladies' Room, so that every time a man wanted to see the advertisements, Sir Walter Besant's weekly chat, Mr. Douglas Sladen's literary notes, or any other feature of that paper which is equally interesting to either sex, an assistant had to be despatched for it. The ladies would have a fair cause of complaint if they were debarred the use of a special "*Men's Room*," and had to despatch an assistant each time they wanted the "*Field*," while it is impossible to duplicate all periodicals so as to have a copy in each room. Then again, why is the "*Women's Room*" not courageously so styled, as is done in at least one well-known instance? The opinion of those of the fair sex who work in libraries on this point would be interesting.

* * *

We have now members of the association of both sexes, and the mutual service which they might do each other in the courteous consideration of questions affecting the profession, might be invaluable. Unfortunately, there seems to be a sort of mutual distrust, the men thinking that the women only enter on librarianship as a sort of temporary amusement, while the women accuse the men of being jealous of their employment at all. Of course, the great objection which men do raise to the employment of women in libraries is, that they are employed at salaries very

much smaller than a man can afford to work for, while they are physically unfitted for some of the work of a library. A man entering on a profession takes it up seriously, as a life work, as a means of livelihood and as a permanent thing: he looks forward to obtaining from it sufficient to afford him a decent livelihood and a fair provision for his family—a woman obviously does not look forward to marrying and settling down on the proceeds of librarianship—hence she can discount the future. There will always be a dislike of the woman librarian by men until the woman librarian frankly accepts the position that she will not work for less wages than a man, and will work side by side with him in the interest of the profession; neither shirking work because she is a woman, nor expecting undue consideration because he is a man.

Absolute equality of the sexes as to hours, wages, and work, is what woman nowadays asks for—and no right thinking man will object to such a demand—but while the employment of women means a reduction below a fair wage of the rate of pay of assistant librarians, men will object, and object strongly to women librarians. Below is appended a cutting from the "*Queen*" of April 9th which is instructive—but women very largely have themselves to thank that they are paid so badly in libraries, and we commend to any woman, thinking of librarianship as a profession, the advice of Mr. P. Cowell, of Liverpool. "If a young woman on her appointment to a library could bring herself to put all thoughts of marriage into the background and to regard the winning of her own bread as her first and permanent object, probably greater seriousness and studiousness would acquire for her an honourable reputation in librarianship."

B.L.D.

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT.—TO CORRESPONDENTS.

CRANLEY.—*Librarianship.*—Librarians in this country, whether men or women, are almost invariably very poorly paid, though in the United States such posts are fairly lucrative. Women are employed in some of the free libraries in the Manchester district, and I think it possible that if you wrote to the hon. sec. of the Gentlewomen's Employment Association, 4, St. Ann's-square, Manchester, she might be able to tell you whether the number of these posts has increased of late. The salaries, however, according to the most recent information we possess, are exceedingly small. Some lectures in librarianship have recently been begun, we believe, at the Librarians' Association, Hanover-square, W., and we cannot doubt that these will be well worth attending. You should apply to the hon. sec. of this association for further particulars. Among the best paid posts of any are those held in the households of great noblemen. But we have not yet heard of a woman being appointed to any of these. It might be a good plan to go in the first instance, even at a small salary, as saleswoman in a circulating library, especially if the library were established in some large or rising centre of population. The work of women about which you inquire consists mainly in cataloguing, and in giving out books. Finally, we might add the suggestion that you should inquire at the People's Palace Mile-end-road, E., whether a pupil could be accepted.

A WELL-EQUIPPED LIBRARY,

By J. POTTER BRISCOE, F.R.H.S.

We are not just now concerned so much respecting the structure as the equipment of a library. The model library building, however, is the one which has been planned, not by the architect alone, but through the co-operation of the librarian. It is not sufficient to say "here is your building, adapt and plan it as you like." As libraries grow from week to week, so ample provision must be made for many years to come. The space which can be allocated to book-shelving must be determined upon at the outset. Then the lineal measurement of shelving, the height of the stacks, and the exact location of each one settled. It is not necessary to provide all this shelving at once if there is a lightness of the money chest, although it is usual to get shelving at the commencement than later as a rule. These matters having been settled, the number and position of windows may be determined, the introduction of fresh air, method of warming, ventilation, and necessary furniture require careful attention—but on these matters Mr. Burgoynes recent work should be carefully studied. A rate supported library should not be a heterogenous collection of books for circulation among the masses, but a thoroughly representative collection of all classes of books, even if it is small to begin with, and should, so far as means and other circumstances allow, consist (1) of a Lending Library for adults; (2) a Lending Library or section for children; (3) a Reference Library; (4) Magazine Room in connection with the Reference Library; (5) a Patent Library; (6) Ladies' Reading Room; (7) News Room and an Emigrants' Information Office. In fact the library should be the building in the parish, town, or city, where information of every kind should be readily accessible. Mention has been made of the representative character of a library. To provide this the work of selection must be made systematically. The Dewey system of classification, whether adopted for the arrangement of books in the library or not, is of incalculable advantage in planning this work, as it covers the whole field of book knowledge. Take a hundred sheets of paper or small books—or ten larger books divided into ten sections—place the class or section, or both, on the top of each page, as set forth by Dewey. These should contain rulings for author, title, edition, date, price, publisher, bookseller, number of order, date of receipt and location, and other columns for various tickings. The work of selection may be made by various methods, by the co-operation of experts in the various classes or sections, and by the use of bibliographical works, general and special, as those by Sonnenschein, Acland, and others. Of course the services of a librarian should be secured before the selection of books is made, as they are, or should be, invaluable at this juncture. As to cataloguing, the dictionary system, if scientifically carried out, is the best and most easily understood by borrowers, but

*System in
forming a
Library.*

*How to form
a Library.*

*Catalogues &
Class Lists.*

when the library has grown to considerable dimensions, so as to necessitate the printing of a catalogue which cannot be sold at sixpence or ninepence, then the class-list should take its place on the score of economy. Much might be stated upon this subject, but both time and space prohibit its being advanced now and here. The Lending Library is not complete unless it has collections of music, and provides books for the use of the Blind. These have been subjects of papers read by me to the parent association. The questions of "Open Access *versus* Indicator" need not be introduced here.

Methods of issuing.

Shelving.

Catalogues for public use.

Children's Libraries.

Reference Library and special collections.

I have not been converted from the Indicator System to that of Open Access. Shelving is now provided in greater variety than it ever was before in the history of library fittings. At Nottingham Tonks' fittings are used with great satisfaction. For public use sets of catalogues, fixed to standing desks, mounted on paper-covered linen with ample margins, and substantially bound, should be provided, but not in such numbers as will prevent the sale of catalogues. These should only be intended for occasional use, and not for the purpose of making lists from. Occasional penny supplements should be issued; and where possible, a halfpenny, or penny monthly, or quarterly bulletin issued. Lists of new books should be posted up in a conspicuous place as soon as they are available, unless monthly bulletins or supplements are printed. The editors of some local newspapers devote some space to the lists of recent accessions to public libraries. In Nottingham, weekly and monthly lists are printed—the former in an advertising agent's pamphlet on "Coming Events," and the latter in our eight-page *Library Bulletin*. In my paper read at the Plymouth meeting of the L.A.U.K., I advocated the general establishment of separate Children's Libraries, or children's sections in connection with lending libraries for adults. This provides the long-wanting connecting link between the elementary school and the library; and has resulted in the provision of many thousands of books for children of school-going ages. Every well-equipped library must provide for the boys and girls who ultimately join the "big" library, as they designate the library for adults. A Reference Department is an important portion of a well-equipped central library. The remarks as to the methods of selection of books for a lending library generally apply here, but with modifications suggested by pecuniary and other circumstances. The poorest circumstanced library should have its reference section. Encyclopedias, dictionaries of languages, and various branches of human knowledge, a good atlas, directories, annuals, and similar works, are of great utility. Under other circumstances, according to the library income, every department should be represented. Works bearing upon local industries should be liberally provided, however costly. Local collections of books, pamphlets, prints, and maps, should always be formed. These may be limited to a parish or town, or may extend to a district or county. Within

this, special collections should be made, as in Nottingham, where *Card Catalogue*. there are Byron, Kirke White, Robin Hood, and Lace and Hosiery sections. The provision of a card catalogue is very desirable. This can be arranged, either as a author list (say on white cards), or as a subject catalogue on coloured cards, or combined in the Dictionary Catalogue system ; the two colours of the cards being useful in economizing time, and preventing undue wear and tear. The cost of printing a good catalogue of a large reference library is considerable, and very rarely, if ever, do the proceeds of sale defray the cost of printing. Class Lists are recommended for many reasons which may be obvious to you. Patent Libraries are often kept in an unsatisfactory manner, as if no interest was taken in patent publications. Where complete sets of specifications do not exist, and where recent specifications are not supplied it is desirable to have at least the Patent Journals and the Abridgements of Specifications. The *Trades Marks Journal* is a useful publication. The Patent Office authorities would furnish these where desired. Although personally opposed to the division of the sexes in public libraries as a rule, yet it must be recognised that it is desirable to devote at least one table in a Reference Library, or a small reading-room with conveniences, for the exclusive use of women. Ladies' Reading Rooms are provided in many libraries in which magazines and special collections of books of special interest to the sex are placed. Magazine Rooms are desirable portions of a good library—or, at least, special tables in a Reference Library should be assigned. The selection of periodicals and their number must, of course, largely depend upon the money available for the purpose, but the reviews should have primary consideration, and the cheap illustrated monthlies should not be overlooked. Lists of magazines supplied should be posted up in the room, with a table number or letter attached. News Rooms are necessary adjuncts to a well-equipped library. These and some reference libraries are often associated with lending libraries for economy of supervision and other reasons. Care should be taken in the selection of newspapers in order to avoid friction. The politics of papers have to be considered, but it is essential, however, that the great London papers should be provided. Then a careful choice should be made of provincial papers, having in view the districts which they cover and the towns where similar manufactures are carried on to the place in which the library is located. Representative manufacturing and professional papers are desirable additions to the list provided. Trade or shop-keeper's papers are so numerous that it may be left to that class of the community to furnish them if they choose to do so. Religious papers as such come pretty well under the same restrictions. Every, or no, denominational paper should be purchased. There is, however, one of these papers which is useful for its advertisements. Two kinds of lists should be posted

Reference Catalogues and Class Lists.

Patent Libraries.

Ladies' Room

Magazine Rooms.

News Rooms.

up in the room, the first in alphabetical order, and the second as magazines and newspapers are arranged on tables and stands, which should bear distinctive letters and numbers. These letters and numbers should appear on the papers as well as on the dual lists. Branches of the Government Emigrants' Information Office are now associated with several public libraries in the provinces. These often protect people from fraud, hardship, and disappointment, and assist suitable persons to emigrate to countries to which they are adapted. The usefulness of the Reference Library, with its geographical and economic works, is extended through the establishment of branches and sub-branches. Where the library area is extensive, and when funds are available then branches should be formed. They should be, according to means and circumstances, either (1) Lending Libraries; (2) Reference Libraries; or (3) Reading Rooms—or a combination of these. Delivery Stations are desirable in places which are distant from the Central Library where there are no branch lending libraries, and can be worked in connection with a branch reading room, or a room could be rented for one night, or more, for the purpose. In the former case the attendant in charge could manage it. At the Belfast Meeting of the Library Association I introduced the subject of giving occasional "talks about books and authors" in reading rooms (see *The Library*, VII., 18-20) as we have successfully done in Nottingham for eight seasons. Time and space combine to prevent my elaborating the points I have raised, but if desired it will be a pleasure to furnish such information as I am able to give on any matter which concerns what I consider to be a well-equipped library. —

BOOKS, &c., RECEIVED.

Cripplegate Foundation. Report of the Governors, 1897. 8vo. 1898. Pp., 31. [H. W. Capper, Institute Manager. A. T. Ward, Sub-Librarian.]

An interesting account of a first year's work, accompanied by a brief sketch of the history of the Institute, which is endowed out of the Parochial Charities of Cripplegate and St. Luke, for the purposes of a Polytechnic and Public Library.

Hampstead Public Libraries. Catalogue of the Belsize Branch Library. 8vo. 1897. Pp., viii., 161, 8. Compiled by W. E. Doubleday, Librarian. [G. H. McCall, Librarian-in-Charge.]

A dictionary catalogue in closely printed double columns with many annotations. Contents are also freely set out. Eight blank pages for "readers' memoranda" are added at the end.

The Nottingham Library Bulletin. (Quarterly.) No. 3. January, 1897. Ed. by J. Potter Briscoe. Pp., 12, and 4 pp. wrapper. Price 1d.

Interesting notes and news are accompanied by lists of additions, and a portrait of an occasional visitor to the Library, Mr. Philip J. Bailey, author of "Festus." The back cover is occupied with a list of about 50 Catalogues and Class Lists, at prices varying from 6d. to 1d.

Wigan Public Library. Twentieth Annual Report. 8vo. 1898.
 Pp. 42. H. T. Folkard, F.S.A., Librarian.

Appended to the report of the year's work are lists of books consulted in Reference Library, principal additions to the Reference and Lending Libraries, and 11 pp. of donations. Interesting additions are "The Historia Hispanica" of R. Zamorensis, printed at Rome by Ulrich Hahn, in 1469; two volumes of plates by Goya; Sach's "Modern Opera Houses and Theatres"; and Leon Say's "French Dictionary of Political Economy," the latter received in exchange for the Wigan Reference Catalogue.

A Contents-Subject Index to General and Periodical Literature. Compiled by A. Cotgreave, F.R.H.S. Sections 3 to 10. (*Arrows—Cystoleum.*)

The attention of assistants is called to the recent issue of eight sections of this work, which is of great value to the librarian as a literary aid. The compiler's offer to supply copies to assistants subscribing, at a reduced price, still holds good, but owing to the number of Guilles-Allès Catalogues remaining at his disposal being extremely limited, early application must be made by those wishing to obtain a gratis copy of this work in addition to the *Index*.

Medical Libraries (a Monthly Journal) devoted to the Interests of Medical Libraries and Bibliography. No. 1. Vol. i. 4pp. Denver. 1898. Price 50 cents. p.a.

From America comes this little journal, whose aim is to encourage the founding of Medical Libraries and Medical Departments in Public Libraries, wherever the medical profession is fairly organised; to encourage the compilation of union catalogues of medical books of private libraries, and to organise a Medical Librarians' Association.

SUPERANNUATION OF A LIBRARIAN.

At a meeting of the Libraries' Committee of the Birmingham City Council on Monday, a communication was received from the chief librarian, Mr. J. D. Mullins, intimating his desire to be relieved from duty under the provisions of the Birmingham Corporation Superannuation Scheme. The Committee resolved to recommend the Council to make arrangements for Mr. Mullins's retirement on June 30th next, and that Mr. A. C. Shaw, the present sub-librarian, be appointed Mr. Mullins's successor. Mr. Mullius, who has for several years been suffering from a form of paralysis, and been unable to attend regularly to his duties, will have had, when he retires, 40 years' association with library work. He will, moreover, have reached the ripe age of 66, for he was born in London in 1832. Mr. Mullins was chosen from 126 candidates as librarian of the Birmingham Old Library, Union Street, in 1858, and he served in that capacity until 1865, when he received the appointment he is about to relinquish.

OBITUARY.

FRASER (SIR WILLIAM).—This learned scholar and former Deputy Keeper of the Records (Scotland) recently died, and by will has left the University of Edinburgh £25,000 for the founda-

tion of a Sir William Fraser Professorship of Ancient History and Paleography, £10,000 for a library, and one half the residue of his estate, estimated at a further £10,000, for the endowment of bursaries for research.

NOTES AND NEWS.

ACTON.—The District Council have secured a site for the proposed Public Library.

BETHNAL GREEN.—The twenty-second Annual Meeting of the Free Library was held at Skinner's Hall, and a proposal was made to connect the Library with the branch museum of the Science and Art Department.

BIRMINGHAM.—Deritend Branch Library has been opened after the building has been extended a third by the addition of another bay.

BOW AND BROMLEY.—The proposed amalgamation has been rejected by Bow on the ground that Commissioners would have to be appointed, instead of the libraries being managed by Vestry Committees.

CLERKENWELL.—A Boy's Reading-room has been opened in the basement.

GRIMSBY.—The valuable Library of Lord Yarborough at Brocklesby Hall was recently destroyed by fire. The Worsley collection of MSS. was fortunately saved.

HORNSEY.—A site has been secured for the erection of a branch Library for Stroud Green and Harringay.

HAMMERSMITH.—A branch Reading-room is to be established at Letchford Gardens.

LEWISHAM.—Mr. F. J. Horniman announces his intention of erecting a building in which his various collections, which have been on view for the last seven years, can be permanently housed near to Lordship Lane and Forest Hill Stations, and of presenting it as a museum to the public, together with some fifteen acres of land surrounding it. A large house will be fitted up as a free Library and free club house, separate rooms being devoted to meetings of the various scientific clubs in the neighbourhood. The building, the grounds, and the valuable collections will eventually be made over, absolutely and unconditionally, to the London County Council in trust for the public.

LIMEHOUSE.—The District Board having received a requisition for the adoption of the Acts, a Committee has been appointed to make the necessary arrangements. A poll will be taken on the 16th inst.

MARYLEBONE.—A poll is to be taken of this parish at an early date.

SHOREDITCH.—On Wednesday, April 20th, Sir John Lubbock opened the New Central Library. The building is excellently planned, and contains some pleasing Shaksperian frescoes, while a beautiful stained glass window representing Caxton exhibiting his handiwork to the king is placed on the staircase. In this library is housed the collection of books made by John Dawson from 1710 to 1763, and left in trust to the vicars of Shoreditch in 1765, as a free library. No check was kept on the books taken out, and 25 per cent. have been lost, but the remaining 650 volumes form an interesting collection.

SUNDERLAND.—At a special meeting of the Proprietary members of the Subscription Library and Literary Society, Professor Brady, President, in the chair, on April 19th it was decided by 39 votes to 18 to have a smoking room.

VIENNA.—The movement for the spread of education among the masses through the medium of popular libraries is increasing in Vienna. In the strict sense of the word, free libraries do not exist, as the Government has not yet come to the rescue, and the movement is entirely dependent upon testamentary bequests and subscriptions of the public. For some time, however, there has been in existence a society which now has four libraries and reading rooms in different parts of the city, for which a very nominal subscription is paid. The Vienna Popular Education Society has just now placed its Library at the disposal of the movement, and nearly eighty of the leading publishers are contributing publications, while 200 newspapers are supplied free. Next autumn the public are promised a central scientific Library, containing at least 50,000 works presented by the Popular Education Society. Down to the end of last month the yearly income has been nearly 60,000 francs.

WEST HAM.—The Town Council has adopted the plans prepared for the new museum to be erected adjoining the Institute and Library at Stratford.

APPOINTMENTS.

CROSS, Mr. W. E., of Kensington Public Libraries, to be a junior assistant St. George, Hanover Square.

SHAW, Mr., Deputy Librarian, Birmingham Public Libraries, to be Chief Librarian.

NORTH-WESTERN SUMMER SCHOOL.

(*From a North-Western Correspondent*).

The North-Western Branch of the Library Association (President, Alderman Harry Rawson) has arranged to hold a Summer School on the 8th, 9th, and 10th of June. By the kind invitation of the Library Committee, and Mr. Peter Cowell, the meetings will be held at Liverpool Public Library. The

course of lectures is as follows:—" Library Management, with especial reference to the subject of local collections," Mr. Peter Cowell ; " Elementary Bibliography," Mr. J. J. Ogle ; " Early Printing " (lecturer not yet fixed) ; " Catalogues and Cataloguing," Mr. H. E. Curran ; " Historical Bindings, with lantern illustrations," Mr. W. May ; and " Aids to Readers," Mr. Butler Wood. Visits will be made to the libraries of Birkenhead, Bootle, etc.

The benefits to be derived from such a practical course of lectures can hardly be estimated, and it is earnestly hoped that all assistants, who can do so, will endeavour to attend, and to southern assistants desirous of seeing the noble Art Gallery and Museum, the magnificent Public Libraries, and the other institutions of the second town in the kingdom that adopted the Public Library Acts, no better opportunity can occur. A small party of London members of the L.A.A. purpose attending the school, and any one wishing to join them should communicate with Mr. W. G. Chambers, Public Library, Stoke Newington, N.

The school will be strictly limited to those actually engaged in library work (a noteworthy innovation in library schools and lectures) and the fee will be 2/6, and the Committee request each student to draw up a report of the proceedings. All further particulars may be obtained of the Hon. Sec., Mr. G. T. Shaw, of the Liverpool Athenæum.

THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

SUMMER SCHOOL: LONDON, 1898.

The Summer School will, in all probability, this year consist mainly of visits to libraries, with demonstrations, and the dates fixed are June 14-17, inclusive. Full details will be given in our next number ; the Hon. Sec. is Mr. H. D. Roberts, of St. Saviour's Public Library, Southwark Bridge Road, S.E.

SUPERANNUATION.

The L. A. O. Superannuation Bill was down for second reading again on the 27th April.

NOTE.—*In some copies of the April No., owing to a dropped type, it was stated that the Bill was read for the first time on Feb. 2nd., this should have been Feb. 22nd.*

NOTICE.—All communications as to advertisements, or as to the contents of the June number, should be addressed to the Hon. Editor, Kensington Public Library, Old Brompton Road, S.W., on or before the 14th May.

